

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 5, 2009

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

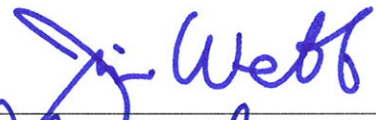
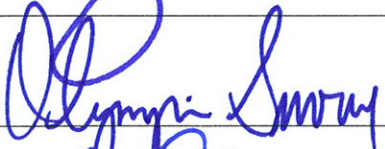
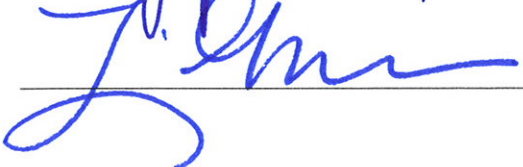
We are writing in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) consideration of a proposal to increase the ethanol blend level in gasoline beyond the current 10 percent. We urge you to ensure that independent and comprehensive testing has been completed prior to approving any waiver from current EPA guidance as required under the Clean Air Act.

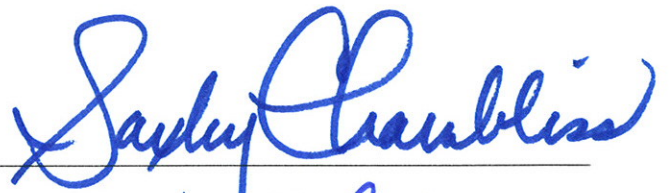
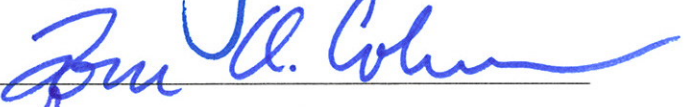
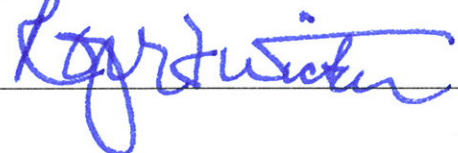
Some have advocated that Congress or the EPA approve mid-level ethanol blends before comprehensive testing has been completed by qualified and independent testing bodies, and all relevant federal agencies. While we strongly support the use of renewable fuels, it is our understanding that to date only preliminary assessments have been conducted relative to long-term durability, tailpipe emissions, evaporative emissions, drivability, materials compatibility, emissions inventory and on-board diagnostic integrity. Any waiver to increase the ethanol blend level must be based upon more complete testing.

In addition to potential technical, consumer protection and air quality issues that have not been adequately studied, we believe that this could potentially have negative consequences for many Americans in these challenging economic times. We feel strongly that any proposal to increase ethanol levels must be subjected to a complete assessment of what such an increase might do to the economy and the feedstock markets generally that our livestock and poultry producers rely on every day. We urge you to assess more thoroughly the potential impacts of increasing the ethanol blend before any changes are made.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kay R. Hagan	Susan M. Collins
Chris J. Jensen	Blanch L. Lincoln
Mark Taylor	Mary Gaudin
John Cornyn	John H. Johnson
Don Vitt	Boucarh
Mark R. Warner	Jim Clark
Debbie Stabenow	Richard Shelby
Tom Vilsack	

cc: The Honorable Steven Chu, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
 The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
 The Honorable Carol Browner, Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change